

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2005

In 2005, **1,674**, or **22.7%** of the 7,382 state legislators in the United States are women. Women currently hold **408**, or **20.7%** of the 1,971 state senate seats and **1,266**, or **23.4%** of the 5,411 state house or assembly seats. Since 1971, the number of women serving in state legislatures has increased more than four-fold.

Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators	Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1971	344	4.5	1985	1,103	14.8	1998	1,617	21.8
1973	424	5.6	1987	1,170	15.7	1999	1,664	22.4
1975	604	8.0	1989	1,270	17.0	2000	1,670	22.5
1977	688	9.1	1991	1,368	18.3	2001	1,666	22.4
1979	770	10.3	1993	1,524	20.5	2002	1,682	22.7
1981	908	12.1	1995	1,532	20.6	2003	1,654	22.4
1983	991	13.3	1997	1,605	21.6	2004	1,659	22.5
						2005	1,674	22.7

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 2005 is:

	Total Legislators		State Senators		State Reps.	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	1051	62.8	260	63.7	791	62.5
Republicans	608	36.3	135	33.1	473	37.4
Nonpartisans*	12	0.7	12	3.0	----	----
Progressives	2	0.1	---	---	2	0.2
Independents	1	0.1	1	0.2	----	----
Total	1,674	100.0	408	100.0	1,266	100.1

The states with the highest percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Maryland	35.6	Kansas	32.7
Delaware	33.9	Arizona	32.2
Nevada	33.3	New Mexico	31.3
Vermont	33.3	California	30.8
Washington	33.3	Minnesota	30.8
Colorado	33.0		

The states with the lowest percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
South Carolina	8.2	Wyoming	14.4
Alabama	10.7	Oklahoma	14.8
Kentucky	12.3	Virginia	15.0
Mississippi	12.6	West Virginia	15.7
Pennsylvania	13.4	South Dakota	16.2

Women in State Legislative Leadership

Three women serve as presidents of state senates: Joan Fitz-Gerald (D-CO), Beth Edmonds (D-ME) and Rosa Franklin (D-WA). Two women are speakers of state houses: Karen Minnis (R-OR) and Gaye R. Symington (D-VT).

Women of Color in State Legislatures

Of the 1,674 women legislators serving nationwide, **329** or **19.7%** are women of color. They include 87 senators and 242 representatives; all but 21 are Democrats. Women of color constitute 4.5% of the total 7,382 state legislators.

The First Women Legislators

In 1894, the first women state legislators were elected to serve in the United States. Three Republican women were elected to the Colorado House of Representatives: Clara Cressingham; Carrie C. Holly; Frances Klock. The first woman state senator, Democrat Martha Hughes Cannon, was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1896.*

* In Nebraska, where the legislature is unicameral, legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

* Source: Utah Governor's Commission for Women.

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WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 2005

STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE		TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
		D	R		D	R			
AL	49	2	1	3/35	10	2	12/105	15/140	10.7
AK	32	2	1	3/20	4	4	8/40	11/60	18.3
AZ	8	3	6	9/30	10	10	20/60	29/90	32.2
AR	37	4	2	6/35	13	4	17/100	23/135	17.0
CA*	10	12	0	12/40	19	6	25/80	37/120	30.8
CO	6	9	2	11/35	18	4	22/65	33/100	33.0
CT	14	7	2	9/36	28	18	46/151	55/187	29.4
DE	2	4	3	7/21	7	7	14/41	21/62	33.9
FL	22	5	4	9/40	13	17	30/120	39/160	24.4
GA	33	5	2	7/56	27	9	36/180	43/236	18.2
HI	13	6	0	6/25	11	6	17/51	23/76	30.3
ID	17	1	3	4/35	9	16	25/70	29/105	27.6
IL	16	9	5	14/59	24	11	35/118	49/177	27.7
IN	36	6	6	12/50	7	7	14/100	26/150	17.3
IA	29	1	4	5/50	17	8	25/100	30/150	20.0
KS	7	4	9	13/40	18	23	41/125	54/165	32.7
KY	48	1	5	6/38	8	3	11/100	17/138	12.3
LA	35	5	2	7/39	13	5	18/105	25/144	17.4
ME	23	6	5	11/35	24	8	32/151	43/186	23.1
MD	1	12	3	15/47	40	12	52/141	67/188	35.6
MA	19	11	0	11/40	33	6	39/160	50/200	25.0
MI	27	5	6	11/38	13	6	19/110	30/148	20.3
MN*	10	12	12 (1 IP)	25/67	26	11	37/134	62/201	30.8
MS	47	4	0	4/52	13	5	18/122	22/174	12.6
MO	26	4	2	6/34	26	10	36/163	42/197	21.3
MT	20	6	1	7/50	22	8	30/100	37/150	24.7
NE	21	NONPARTISAN		12/49	UNICAMERAL		12/49	12/49	24.5
NV*	3	4	2	6/21	11	4	15/42	21/63	33.3
NH	12	4	1	5/24	70	54	124/400	129/424	30.4
NJ	39	5	2	7/40	10	3	13/80	20/120	16.7
NM	9	7	4	11/42	12	12	24/70	35/112	31.3
NY	25	7	3	10/62	31	6	37/150	47/212	22.2
NC	24	7	0	7/50	22	10	32/120	39/170	22.9
ND	40	3	2	5/47	7	11	18/94	23/141	16.3
OH	31	3	2	5/33	13	8	21/99	26/132	19.7
OK	44	6	2	8/48	5	9	14/101	22/149	14.8
OR	15	8	1	9/30	8	8	16/60	25/90	27.8
PA	46	5	4	9/50	9	16	25/203	34/253	13.4
RI	38	7	1	8/38	9	2	11/75	19/113	16.8
SC	50	1	0	1/46	6	7	13/124	14/170	8.2
SD	41	2	1	3/35	4	10	14/70	17/105	16.2
TN	34	5	3	8/33	11	5	16/99	24/132	18.2
TX	30	2	2	4/31	14	18	32/150	36/181	19.9
UT	28	2	2	4/29	7	10	17/75	21/104	20.2
VT*	3	8	2	10/30	34	14 (2 Prg)	50/150	60/180	33.3
VA	43	7	1	8/40	8	5	13/100	21/140	15.0
WA*	3	15	5	20/49	19	10	29/98	49/147	33.3
WV	42	0	3	3/34	12	6	18/100	21/134	15.7
WI	18	3	5	8/33	12	14	26/99	34/132	25.8
WY	45	3	1	4/30	4	5	9/60	13/90	14.4
		260	135	408/1,971	791	473	1,266/5,411	1,674/7,382	22.7
		(12 nonpartisans)			(2 Progressives)				
		(1 Independence Party)							

* States share the same rank if their proportions of women legislators are exactly equal or round off to be equal (CA, MN; NV, VT, WA).